

Send us your email
address for the next issue

Special points of interest:

- Fernamber Off Lead is five years old! 22 issues and still going strong.
- T Ch Fernamber Tradition earns a qualifying score in CCD class.
- A great place to visit is the Kepala Canine Country Club in Diggers Rest.
www.kepalak9countryclub.com.au

Inside this issue:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Decorating with Dogs | 2 |
| Microchips and Registries | 2 |
| Inner Peace | 2 |
| Bach Flower Remedies | 3 |
| Sybil | 3 |
| Rescue Remedy | 3 |
| Aggression—an Alternative Approach | 4 |

Fernamber Off Lead

Welcome to our Autumn Issue

Fernamber Off Lead is five years old this issue!

It is hard to believe that five years ago we had the idea of an email newsletter to keep in touch with puppy owners and friends. Clive suggested the clever name and introduced me to pdf files. The first issue went out in February 2002 and 22 issues later we are still going strong!

Last November, I bought home a new household member.

Rachel, a black semi-longhaired cat, had two kittens and although she supposedly had an owner, he was not feeding her or looking after the kittens. So Rachel and the two kittens came home with me (much to the disgust of my resident cat, Chelsea). Fritz and Fang are now happily running things in their new homes and Rachel has made herself at home as well!

We all eat too much at Christmas time, but this year my family outdid ourselves! We decided to eat out for Christmas lunch and four courses later we were totally defeated! We weren't able to even cook our planned bar-b-que dinner— and there were no nibbles or treats that afternoon! We had to



Fun at Kepala Canine Country Club!

extend Christmas to the next day so that we could finish the food!

In February, April and Teagan were invited to a puppy party for their great grandkids and grandkids who were one year old. Everyone had a fantastic time at the Kepala Canine Country Club.

Our very best wishes to Tom who is recovering from a serious illness.

And congratulations to Kim and Tully, T Ch Fernamber Tradition who earned his first pass in the CCD obedience class!

Let Sleeping Dogs Lie



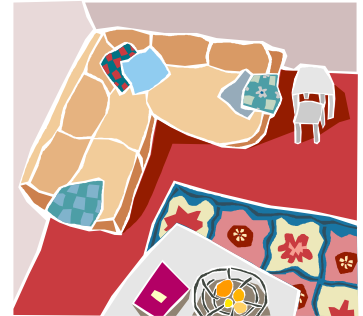
Decorating With Dogs

Decorating when you have dogs can provide unique opportunities to express your own personal style and taste.

1. Bare floors, without carpet or throw rugs, can give a nice open feeling to a room. It can provide a soothing balance when you have many art objects that reflect your love of animals.
2. Paw prints and nose smudges on glass doors and windows break up glare and soften the light in a room.
3. Dog crates, when stacked three high, can add height to a room. If fastened securely to the wall, they provide a safe and dramatic place for exotic plants that otherwise might be molested by your pets. An up light can make it a real focal point.
4. Old towels and blankets thrown casually on upholstered furniture can add a

wonderful homey, country-quilt look to an otherwise bland room.

5. Vari-kennels, placed end to end and topped with plate glass can create an unusual coffee table, one your friends will really remember.
 6. Doggie beds, randomly placed around a room, can add color and texture, much as throw pillows do.
 8. Shredded or chewed books and magazines send a message to guests that they are free to relax and feel at home.
 9. Dog crates can make versatile end tables, and can be slip covered to match any room decor.
 10. Nothing makes a guest feel more welcome than three friendly dogs hopping in his lap as soon as he sits down.
- So throw away those decorating videos and express your own unique tastes!



Unique Decorating Style!

Microchips and Registries

After a microchip is implanted, your veterinarian forwards your information on to an accredited Registry. The Register provides a secure source of information that can be accessed only by authorised users to provide owner contact information should that animal be found without external visible means of identification.

The system works. Central Animal Records and the AVA and Domestic Animals Registry (DAR) accredited National Registry is responsible for assisting in the recovery of 1800 lost unidentified animals every month who have been presented to animal welfare shelters,

council pounds, emergency centres and veterinarians.

When an animal is found Central Animal Records staff will access all other registers if details are not listed with them.

Central Animal Records is the largest Registry in Victoria and can be accessed 7 days a week, 365 days a year, both by phone and internet. Information is only provided to authorised users.

Always update your contact details when you change address or phone numbers.

You can have confidence in the accredited Registry system operating in Victoria.

“Microchips are responsible for the recovery of 1800 lost animals every month.”

Inner Peace

"The way to achieve inner peace is to finish all the things you've started."

I heard this simple advice on the radio and decided to try it.

I looked around the house to see all the things I had started and hadn't finished, and before leaving the house this morning, I finished off a bottle of merlot, a bottle of chardonnay, a bottle of Bailey's, a bottle of Absolut vodka, a packet of Jaffa Cakes,

the remainder of both Prozac and Valium prescriptions, the rest of the cheesecake and a box of chocolates.

You have no idea how good I feel!

Pass this on to those you feel are in need of inner peace.

Have a lovely weekend!



Finish it!

Bach Flower Remedies

Dr Edward Bach studied medicine at the London University College Hospital in the early 1900s. He believed that attitude of mind plays a vital role in maintaining health and recovering from illness and in 1930 he left his practice in London and decided to concentrate on natural therapies.

By using various plants and flowers, Dr Bach was able to develop natural remedies aimed at healing the mental and emotional state of his patients. He found that by concentrating on restoring the balance of emotional well being, he was able to alleviate physical distress and unhappiness. This allowed his patient's bodies to function and heal naturally.

He developed 38 remedies that are directed at helping a particular characteristic or emotional state.

Dr Bach passed away in 1936 but left us a system of natural medicine that continues to be used all over the world.

Many veterinary practitioners are experiencing great success with their patients using the Bach Flower Remedies, from helping a nervous dog to become friendly and sociable, to restoring happiness in a dog which has endured extreme anguish and trauma. The remedies are most commonly used for behavioural problems because they work on the emotional aspect of disease.

There is no danger in treating your dog with Bach Flower remedies. It is impossible to overdose and if you misdiagnose and use the wrong drops, it won't harm him.

Remedies are readily available from most health food stores and pharmacies.



Dr Edward Bach

www.bachremedies.com

Sybil

Sybil is a Welsh Springer Spaniel who is a bit of a scaredy cat. Her owner, Rosey was finding that when she took Sybil for a walk she would get very scared and fearful.

Sybil liked going for walks and would get excited at the thought of putting on her lead, but she never seemed comfortable like most dogs.

She was given Mimulus, which is for fear of known things, because when she came to places where dogs had been before, she would cower. The other remedy added was Larch, which is for confidence.

After using these remedies for a short while, Sybil was a changed dog.

Rosey noticed a huge difference in a very short period of time. She found that Sybil was a lot more confident and enjoyed her walks.

And giving Sybil the drops was easy. Sybil seemed to know the drops were making her better. Sybil would hear Rosey opening the bottle and would come running to have them.

“After using these remedies for a short while, Sybil was a changed dog.”

Rescue Remedy

Rescue Remedy is the most famous of the remedies, but in fact is not a remedy at all, but rather a mix of five different Bach Flower Remedies (Clematis, Impatiens, Rock Rose, Cherry Plum and Star of Bethlehem). Together they help deal with any emergency or stressful event.

Rescue Remedy can help with immediate everyday situations or in times of crisis or trauma.

Clematis

Increases attention span and ability to focus.

Impatiens

For the very nervous animal. Impatiens is for any form of pain.

Rock Rose

For any form of terror and panic. Rock Rose is for dauntless courage.

Cherry Plum

For the animal that loses control, becoming wild and crazed. For the animal that becomes frantic when travelling.

Star of Bethlehem

Star of Bethlehem is for all forms of trauma.



Bach Rescue Remedy

The Newsletter from Fernamber Golden Retrievers

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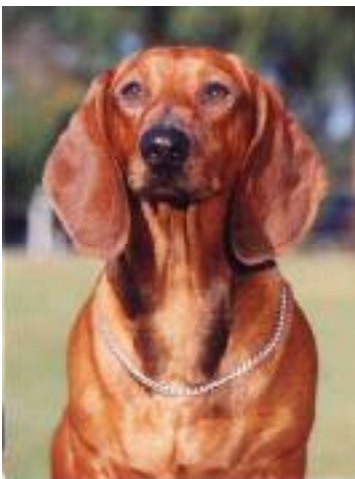
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*Golden Retrievers are
the Clever Companions*

See our previous issues at
www.fernamber.com/page9.html

**Visit us at
[www.
fernamber.
com](http://www.fernamber.com)**



Masie would bark menacingly
when anyone tried to stroke her



Dash and Dot say,

*"Never be afraid to try
something new. Remember that
a lone amateur built the Ark. A
large group of professionals built
the Titanic. "*

Until next issue,

Cheryl and Goldens,

April, Teagan, Paddington & Ashley

Aggression—An Alternative Approach

Gus, a Border Collie would snap and growl if approached by men; Masie, a long haired Dachshund would bark menacingly when anyone tried to stroke her puppies; Bruno, a Boxer would bite the hand of family members if they tried to take his toy away.

Each dog was actually responding to a different emotion and were therefore good candidates for the Bach Flower Remedies. We need to appreciate that the problems affecting these dogs were not caused by dominant behaviour. Unfortunately for the dog the 'dominance' label is often incorrectly applied. Dogs have a number of communication signals to indicate aggression. Behaviourists recognise that dogs have phases of aggression, the first being a stare and the ultimate phase being the bite. For many dogs, by the time they bite, it is because they have exhausted all other attempts to avoid an aggressive encounter (by showing phases of increased aggression, such as raising their hackles, curling up their lips or holding a tight mouth position.) Each time the owner ignores a signal; the dog moves up to the next phase of his warning system.

Although Masie would bare her teeth at her owner, this had nothing to do with dominance; it was due to a fear of people coming too close to her puppies or even taking one away. For a dog like this, dominance reduction training would be likely to increase her fear of people and might even exacerbate her aggression. Understanding which emotion is motivating your dog is critical to finding a solution. Applying the wrong behaviour modification could end up in disaster.

For a long time behaviourists thought that all social animals operated according to a pecking order. Eventually it was

discovered that this type of pecking order was not accurate. So the oft repeated idea that the dog and his family also interact in the same way is fundamentally flawed.

We now know that animals compete for dominance over resources. Access to water is certainly worth contesting because water is a life giving resource. The dog that succeeds in driving a second dog away from water wins the dominance contest in respect to water. He has to go through the same procedure with the same dog over many other valuable resources, such as access to the best food, the most shade on a hot day or even the amount of free space around him. The contests go on until one dog concedes. Eventually always losing causes the dog to stop trying to contest. Only at this point you could say that one dog is dominant over the other.

Gus was the perfect candidate for Mimulus, the Bach Remedy for known fears. Mimulus works where the dog knows what he is frightened of. By conditioning Gus to approach by man and giving him Mimulus, he soon made a full recovery.

Masie was given Red Chestnut which is the remedy for over concern for others. Masie had fears for her puppies. It turned out that in the past her puppies had been removed when the breeder wanted to wean them, so her behaviour had strong foundations. By allowing Masie to wean her puppies herself and administering Red Chestnut, she once again became a playful and calm mother.

Bruno was given Chicory for possessiveness. His problems were solved by giving him lots of toys so he learned he didn't need to be possessive and Chicory helped change his destructive emotions. He now offers toys to his family in an effort to initiate play.